

## **FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR RURAL RESIDENTS**

- ▶ **Create a defensible space of at least 30 feet around your house and outbuildings; closely mow lawns and trees should be pruned and spaced widely apart.**
- ▶ **Establish fuel breaks along roadways and between buildings and fields or woodlands.**
- ▶ **Keep mufflers and spark arresters on agricultural equipment in proper working order and watch out for rocks and metal when bush hogging or mowing.**
- ▶ **Monitor hay-baling operations closely; dry hay can ignite within the baler.**
- ▶ **Watch out for sparks when using welding equipment to build fences or repair equipment.**
- ▶ **Avoid driving or parking vehicles in grassy areas where tall, dry grass comes into contact with hot pollution control equipment under your vehicle.**
- ▶ **Postpone outdoor burning until your area greens up; check with local fire department to determine if bans on outdoor burning have been lifted.**
- ▶ **When debris burning is allowed, establish wide control lines down to bare mineral soil prior to lighting your fire. Burn trash in a burn barrel or other fire-safe receptacle covered with a wire mesh or grid that will help contain burning debris. Stay with your fire until it is out.**